

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

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State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Local Workforce Planning Section

Despite moderate job growth, region's unemployment rate holds steady

In **Adams County** the unemployment rate has been below typical levels for seven months and hit typical levels in August. March through June, the retail & wholesale trade sector had posted more jobs this year than last, but July and August saw the sector fall back to 2002 levels. August-to-August job growth in construction and leisure & hospitality wasn't enough to make up for sharp September and October losses in information, professional, business & other services.

Forest County saw its unemployment rate fall by a smaller margin than usual in August and remains as far above its typical rate as it has been at any time in the last year. Job gains in retail & wholesale trade were not enough to push the sector above its performance last year.

The unemployment rate in **Langlade County** rose instead of holding steady as it typically does in August. It is now further above typical than it has been at any point in the last year and it is higher than any August rate from 1990 to 2002. From January to May, information, professional, business & other services was 40 to 50 jobs over last year's level, but it has been falling further behind last year's level since June. Retail & wholesale trade remains well above last year's employment figures.

Lincoln County's unemployment rate is about 1.0 percent above the typical August rate. Manufacturing employment has been below 2002 levels for all of 2003, but August job growth shrank the deficit to its smallest size this year. Comparing last August to this one, leisure & hospitality has added nearly twice as many jobs as the other job-adding sectors combined. Retail & wholesale trade appears to be stabilizing at roughly 40 fewer jobs than monthly levels in 2002.

The unemployment rate in **Marathon County** rose as far above typical monthly levels as it has at any time in the last 12 months. After dipping down to 2002 levels in

July, manufacturing bounced back to 400 jobs above 2002 levels in August, which is more consistent with spring and summer figures. Leisure & hospitality is further above 2002 figures than it has been for most of this year.

Oneida County saw its unemployment rate hold steady, as it typically does in August. Leisure & hospitality is further above last year's estimates than at any point this year, while information, professional, business & other services saw growth more slowly this summer than

last and remains below last year's employment level.

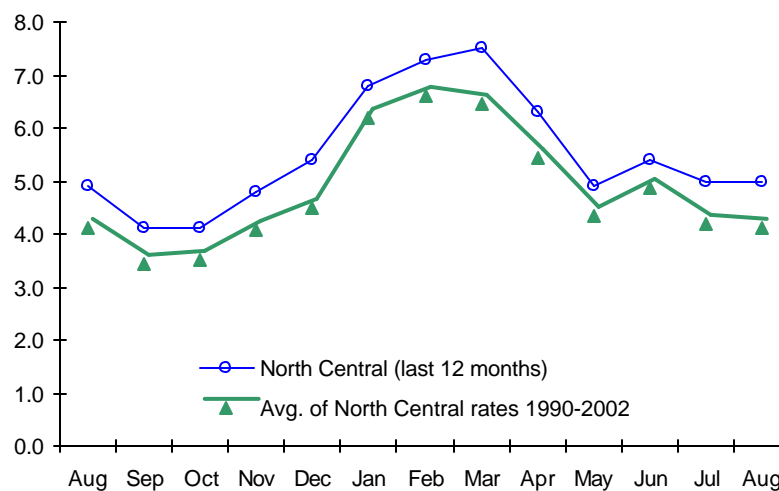
In **Portage County**, the unemployment rate was above the typical August level. Until May, manufacturing had posted more jobs for each month of 2003 than 2002, but now the 2003 figures are lower than their 2002 counterparts. Retail & wholesale trade remains well

below 2002 levels, but appears to be narrowing the gap.

The unemployment rate in **Vilas County** fell a bit more sharply than it usually does in August. Although this brought the rate closer to typical levels than it has been in eight months, this is still a higher August rate than any reported between 1990 and 2002. Until June, leisure & hospitality was well above 2002 levels, but the margin of growth looks much slimmer now. Information, professional, business & other services declined sharply in January and job growth this spring and summer were much slower than they were last year.

Wood County's unemployment rate rose as it typically does in August, and remained well above the typical August rate. Manufacturing has reported fewer jobs for each month of 2003 than the same month of 2002. The deficit narrowed in February and March, but now stands at more than 400 jobs. August-to-August changes are dominated by strong job growth in education & health services and leisure & hospitality as well as manufacturing's deficit.

Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted



Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin		Adams		Forest		Langlade		Lincoln	
	Aug 2003	1-month change	Aug 2003	1-month change	Aug 2003	1-month change	Aug 2003	1-month change	Aug 2003	1-month change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,795,100	-5,400	1,000	4,400	-40	60	3,300	0	-140	140
Const., min'g & nat. resources	131,800	0	-8,200	300	0	30	110	0	-20	10
Manufacturing	521,000	2,100	-15,200	440	-10	10	320	0	-20	0
Trade (wholesale & retail)	442,200	1,900	9,300	560	-20	0	340	10	-10	30
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	102,500	-1,200	-1,100	150	0	0	180	0	0	-10
Financial activities	159,300	-100	5,200	90	0	0	100	0	10	0
Education & health services	363,300	-200	6,400	450	0	0	340	-10	10	50
Leisure & hospitality	260,500	-1,100	-100	920	-10	80	220	0	-60	0
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	439,400	-1,000	9,300	350	0	-110	130	0	-70	20
Government	375,100	-5,800	-4,600	1,160	-10	60	1,560	0	20	60
Civilian Labor Force**	3,129,400	-38,600	74,000	9,200	-160	310	5,000	-60	-70	90
Employed	2,959,600	-32,600	59,100	8,900	-160	290	4,600	-40	-80	-50
Unemployed	169,700	-6,000	14,900	360	-10	20	340	-20	10	130
Unemployment rate (%)	5.4	-0.1	0.3	3.9	0.0	0.1	6.8	-0.2	0.3	8.6
	Marathon		Oneida		Portage		Vilas		Wood	
	Aug 2003	1-month change	Aug 2003	1-month change	Aug 2003	1-month change	Aug 2003	1-month change	Aug 2003	1-month change
Total jobs, all industries*	70,700	300	400	20,000	-270	590	33,100	60	-110	-510
Const., min'g & nat. resources	3,100	0	0	1,540	0	40	1,090	-10	-100	10
Manufacturing	18,700	300	400	1,380	-60	-160	6,200	20	-610	0
Trade (wholesale & retail)	14,700	200	100	4,200	-20	-120	4,400	100	-250	-140
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	2,700	0	-100	390	0	-10	1,810	-20	-60	-140
Financial activities	4,300	0	-100	580	0	30	4,000	0	60	20
Education & health services	6,700	-100	-100	3,100	-20	20	3,100	10	190	30
Leisure & hospitality	5,400	100	200	3,900	10	1,010	4,100	10	540	80
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	8,300	0	100	2,500	-40	-210	3,800	20	80	50
Government	6,800	-200	-100	2,400	-130	-20	4,700	-60	40	-470
Civilian Labor Force**	78,200	-670	1,800	24,400	-450	540	39,200	-250	480	110
Employed	74,800	-520	1,570	23,200	-440	660	37,200	-320	450	80
Unemployed	3,300	-150	220	1,130	0	-120	1,990	60	30	50
Unemployment rate (%)	4.3	-0.1	0.2	4.6	0.0	-0.6	5.1	0.2	0.1	1.0

*Includes jobs with employers in area. ** Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary.
Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding.